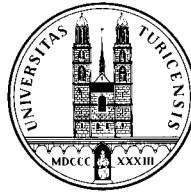


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Zürich, 30.3.90

Dear Prof. Lederberg,

It is indeed true that conjugating pairs were studied intensively during my Ph D-time in Prof. Kellenbergers group. The results were written down in my thesis, but we could not yet publish it in J. of Bacteriology as it was planned a year ago. The main reason for me is that Eduard Kellenberger wants me to publish a kind of review of the century instead of a simple report of results, how I understand writing a paper. This is for me the sign that he has reached the age for retirement from science, since he always tries to write his memoirs in a paper. He will be retired in September this year. There will be a Symposium because of his 70th birthday at a nice little town in Switzerland (Solothurn). I will enclose for you a copy of the Program as well as a copy of the corresponding chapter of my thesis.

March of last year I changed from Basel to Zürich. For a while I gave up all experiments with conjugating E.coli. About a month ago I decided to restart experiments. Next week I will prepare new freeze-substitution samples of blocked and of hfr conjugating E.coli in a monolayer. I will do a 3D computer image reconstruction with a z-resolution better than 10 nm. The results should be presented at Eduards retirement symposium. All talks will be accompanied by a paper in a special issue of Journal of Structural Biology (the renamed J. of Ultrastruct. Mol. Struct. Res).

I hope that this letter has clarified the mysterious vanishing of the EM pictures of mating pairs. Please take into account, that the English style of my thesis is not perfect and that it may contain some printing errors. It is always difficult to find somebody making the effort to correct such manuscripts.

Yours sincerely